



CONNECTICUT
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

**TESTIMONY OF
SUSAN DAVIS, RN, EdD
CHAIRMAN OF THE CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BEFORE THE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 11, 2014**

SB 407, An Act Concerning A Hospital Quality Of Care Initiative

I want to thank the members of the Human Services Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Connecticut Hospitals and the patients we serve. My name is Susan Davis. I am the Chairman of the Connecticut Hospital Association Board of Trustees, the former President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Vincent's Health Services and currently a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Vincent's Health Services. Connecticut hospitals strongly support SB 407, An Act Concerning A Hospital Quality Of Care Initiative.

As a former caregiver and executive serving the healthcare needs of the Greater Bridgeport area, I know first-hand the critical role hospitals play in the health and quality of life of our communities. Connecticut hospitals treat everyone who comes through their doors 24 hours a day, regardless of ability to pay. In 2012, we provided nearly \$225 million in free services for those who could not afford to pay.

Hospitals and other healthcare providers have been challenged to improve the quality of care while at the same time cut costs and find efficiencies in delivering critical healthcare services. Since the passage of the biennium budget this past May, hospitals have been working with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the Department of Social Services (DSS) to develop a new payment framework for acute care hospitals that provides stable and predictable resources while improving care and controlling costs. SB 407 embodies the vision of providing a framework for the delivery of quality care in an environment of diminishing resources.

As you will hear from my colleagues, SB 407 is modeled on the Medicare Value-Based Purchasing program and incorporates those concepts into the Medicaid hospital payment system. The proposal aligns with the state's health reform agenda; builds upon the existing Medicaid FFS payment system; focuses on programs to improve access to appropriate care, thereby reducing disparities and

improving population health; uses quality metrics to track and reward change; and invests in hospitals that achieve the shared vision. Connecticut patients – your constituents – will be best served with the enactment and implementation of SB 407.

In spite of devastating cuts over the last few years, Connecticut hospitals have continued to innovate and improve the quality of care for all who enter their doors. Passage of SB 407 would allow for a stable and predictable payment methodology which would allow hospitals to once again make investments in our employees, facilities, and communities.

As a member of the Human Services Committee, you have an opportunity to protect and invest in hospitals – the economic cornerstones and healthcare safety nets of our communities. As you deliberate and debate SB 407, I ask that you please support Connecticut's hospitals by voting to report this bill out of Committee.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.